

REMARKS

In the first Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-18 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-31 of DEO et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,594,355).

By way of the present amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12-14, 17, and 18 to improve form. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Claims 1-18 remain pending.

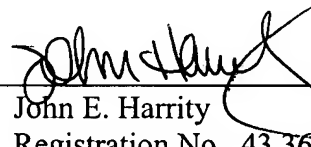
Claims 1-18 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-31 of DEO et al. While not concurring with the rejection, but to expedite prosecution, attached herewith is a terminal disclaimer to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 13-2491 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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